

# YELLOWSTONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1371 RIMTOP DRIVE, BILLINGS, MT 59105

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December 31, 2012

EXHIBIT

14

DATE

JAN 21, 2013

HB

7

Ray Beck  
Administrator  
Conservation & Resource Development Division  
DNRC  
PO Box 201601  
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Beck:

This correspondence is in reference to Yellowstone Conservation District's Resource and Development Grant Project #17 entitled Lower Pryor Creek Stabilization and Restoration.

The technical reviewer expressed concerns with the Pryor Creek restoration project as written would not meet the stated goal of restoring a geomorphically stable channel configuration that supports fish passage because it only addresses the reach of channel between Northern Avenue and I-94. The Yellowstone Conservation District agrees with the technical review of the grant proposal and will commit to including the lower reach as suggested which would add approximately 1,025 feet of restored channel between the confluence of Pryor Creek and the Yellowstone River and Northern Avenue.

The project has the potential to greatly enhance habitat of fish species important to the Yellowstone River and hopes that DNRC supports full funding. Until restored, Pryor Creek, in its present condition, will continue to impede fish passage and add to an inordinate amount of sedimentation into the Yellowstone River. The flood of 2012 created an unprecedented opportunity to work with landowners, the Huntley Project Irrigation District, and the Bureau of Reclamation to enhance and restore a once blocked channel into a thriving fishery that will benefit native fish species in the Yellowstone River as well as in Pryor Creek.

Yellowstone Conservation District is requesting DNRC to support full funding in the amount of \$300,000 with the recommendation that part of the overall amount be used to include design of the downstream reach. Remainder funds could then be applied to the overall project final design and project construction.

Sincerely,

Sheri Kirschenmann  
Chair, Yellowstone CD

